

## Musgrave honors veterans of Korean War with medals

WASHINGTON — Colorado Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave honored 49 Colorado veterans of the Korean War by presenting them with a Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

On Nov. 8, Musgrave hosted a ceremony to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and present qualified veterans with a medal.

Korean War veterans from Northeast Colorado who received medals included:

Robert D. Kraich, Akron  
Ralph W. Rogers, Akron  
Richard D. Van Vleet, Fleming  
Paul C. Salvador, Haxtun.

"Presenting these service medals was an honor," said Musgrave. "The bravery of these men and women shall not have been forgotten. Their tremendous sacrifices more than 50 years ago in Korea warrants recognition to this day. I am pleased they finally get to receive this medal so many years after their service."

The Republic of Korea provided the medals to eligible U.S. veterans who served in the Korean conflict, or their next of kin.

The medal was originally offered by the Republic of Korea in 1951 to United Nations forces

serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998 the government of the

Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it.